



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

EDITORIAL.

EDITORS, E. D. COPE AND J. S. KINGSLEY.

THE U. S. National Academy of Sciences is entertaining a proposition to divide its membership into classes. These are ten in number in the plan, as follows: Mathematics, Physics, Astronomy, Geodesy and Mechanics, Chemistry, Geology, Botany, Zoölogy, Anthropology, and Political Economy and Statistics.

A classification of the sciences which shall be consistent with their nature and relations is of course difficult, and the above arrangement may be criticised, especially on the part of biologists. It is, however, reasonable that physiology, embryology and paleontology should be relegated to botany and zoology respectively. But psychology cannot be properly so referred, and its omission is a defect in the plan which it is important to remedy.

We believe that such a division into classes will be useful in directing attention to possible deficiency or excess in the representation of the various branches of science. But it must be borne in mind on the other hand that no equality of representation will be possible, and the departments, if adopted, will be filled as nearly as possible in accordance with the number of deserving candidates which can be found.

In order to secure a more equal and just representation, another plan of division was proposed some years ago which was not adopted. Four classes were recommended, viz.: Psychology, Physics, Natural History and Applied Science. It was proposed to give to the first and last-named classes fifteen members each, and to the second and third, which would correspond with the old sections A and B of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, thirty-five members each. This may be a better scheme than the one now before the Academy.

The new plan proposes that any of the classes may be called together and hold meetings to consider questions relating to their departments. This is a proposition to be considered with care. Occasions requiring such separate action will be rare, and per-

haps had better be deferred until meetings of the entire Academy can be had. It is doubtful whether such a plan would be productive of advantage to the Academy. We hope also that the division into classes will not be made a pretext for increasing the membership to above one hundred persons.

—THE last meeting of the Committee of Arrangements for the reception of the International Congress of Geologists was held in Washington, D. C., April 18th. The American Committee had, on the occasion of their last Congress (in London), presented the invitation of a number of Philadelphia organizations and officials to the Congress to hold its next session in Philadelphia, which invitation was accepted by the Bureau of Direction on behalf of the Congress. Some uncertainty remained as to the best time of holding the Congress, owing to the fact that the Jubilee of the University of Pennsylvania and the International Exposition at Chicago had both been postponed from the original dates, and it was thought to be important that the Congress should coincide with one or the other of these events. The committee, however, voted that the meeting of Congress should be held in 1891, thus allowing but little time for preparations. This premature action might have been harmless, however, but for the subsequent action by which it was voted to ask the Bureau to transfer the place of meeting from Philadelphia to Washington. The time required to get the consent of the Bureau, whose members live in many countries and at remote distances, will be so great as to prevent the proper preparation for the Congress, owing to the lack of time. This conclusion was reached principally by the votes of active or past employees of the U. S. Geological Survey on motions made by the Director of the Survey (Major J. W. Powell), who constituted a majority of the Committee; one member of the Survey, Capt. C. E. Dutton, not voting. The adoption of the motions of Major Powell is equivalent to the destruction of the international character of the Congress. The object of the Director in bringing about this result may be well imagined. That he should have the support of the International Congress of Geologists is no doubt a very desirable consummation for the Director of the

Survey, since he has not hitherto experienced any especial recognition from that body. And that he shall have such recognition from a body controlled by himself, is a foregone conclusion. There are, however, many American geologists who think that this International Congress should not be used to advance the political aspirations of Major Powell. We are of this number, and we therefore hope that the Bureau of Europe will not accede to the request of the majority of the Committee, but will adhere to their original decision that the Congress be held in Philadelphia, where it will have a truly international character, and be free from the domination of any particular body. The date also should be postponed until 1892, in order to allow the time requisite for preparation, and to coincide with the approaching Jubilee of the University of Pennsylvania. The facilities for holding the Congress in Philadelphia are excellent, and they will be made fully available by the coöperation of the Philadelphia members of the Committee of Reception.

—THE scientific men of Indiana are preparing to give the American Association for the Advancement of Science a warm welcome at Indianapolis the coming summer. If their efforts meet with the relative success that they did at the first meeting of the Association at that city in 1871, the Association will have occasion to congratulate itself. We hope however that the local committee will arrange that the excursions be postponed until after the close of the meetings so that the real business may not be interfered with too seriously. Indiana includes within its borders more original investigators in science than any state west of the Allegheny Mountains, and we have no doubt but that the interests of science will be well cared for at their hands.